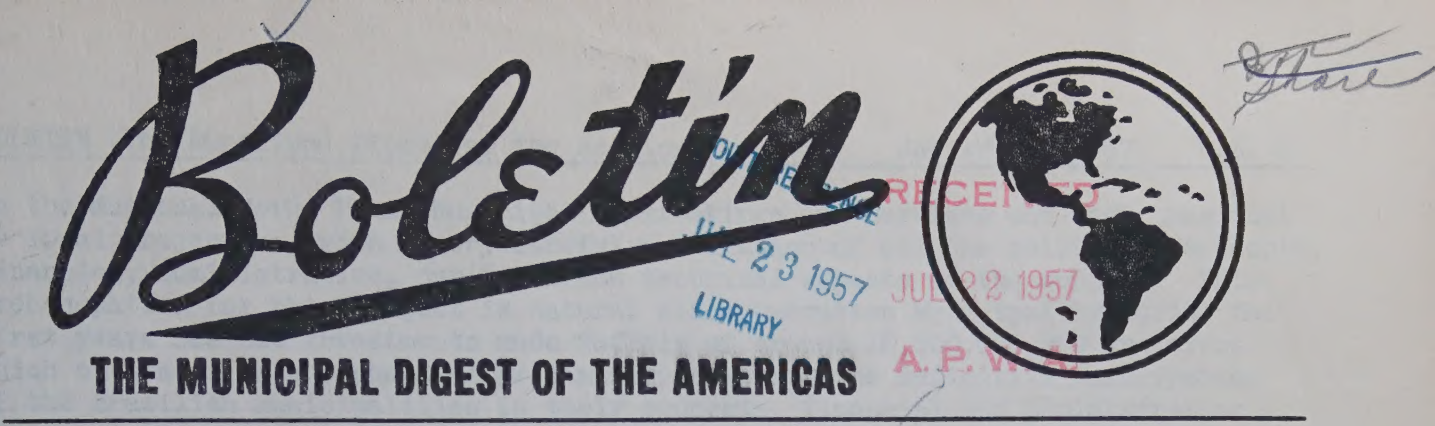


PUBLICACIÓN MENSUAL DE LA COMISIÓN PANAMERICANA DE COOPERACIÓN INTERMUNICIPAL, OBISPO 351, LA HABANA, CUBA. SOLICITADA LA FRANQUICIA POSTAL EN LA ADMÓN. DE CORREOS DE LA HABANA. DIRECTOR: DR. CARLOS M. MORÁN. COMPILADORA Y REDACTORA: BLANCA ROSA SÁNCHEZ. SUSCRIPCIÓN ANUAL: $3.00. SUSCRIPCIÓN COMBINADA CON LAS OTRAS PUBLICACIONES PERIÓDICAS DE LA O.I.C.I.: $10.00 ANUAL

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ARGENTINA. Commencing on January 1, 1957, a regime of licenses for the civil personnel was put into effect in Santa Fe Province, which includes all the agents dependent on the provincial Executive Power and autarchic organizations, except in cases of special agreements, without prejudice to what may be provided on the subject in national agreements or special laws.

This decree does not only contemplate the general conditions for said licences but physical conditions are required for entry in the administration, which is determined by a physical examination.

BRAZIL.

IV National Congress of Municipalities. There is much enthusiasm in the preparation of this event according to information received from Mr. Ruz-Cleto Pimentel dos Santos, who was a member of the Brazilian delegation to the V Meeting of the Inter-American Congress of Municipalities held at San Juan, Puerto Rico in 1954, and is an active member of the Brazilian Municipal Association.

The proposed agenda for this Congress which is to be held in the city of Rio de Janeiro during the beginning of the year 1957 contains the following subjects:

I. Constitutional Reform. A new separation of revenue for the municipalities.
II. Operation Municipality. Regional and local projects. Political, administrative, economic, financial, technical and cultural aspects.
III. Municipal Charter. Re-examination and improvement. Special topics:
   1. Municipal Autonomy: the regime of self established charters.
   2. Municipal finances.
   3. Municipal planning.
   4. Inter administrative relations; municipal consortiums and agreements.
   5. The conservation and defense of the natural resources of the municipality.
   6. The municipality and atomic energy.
   7. Immigration and colonization of the municipality.
   8. Primary Instruction and the municipality.
   9. Industrial exploration of tourism.

General matters.

Several papers have been received already at the offices of the Brazilian Municipal Association on the subjects of the Fourth Congress, specially that regarding Operation Municipality regarding which it is expected that the debate shall center

on the National Works Plan, Municipal Undertakings and Services and their regional or local projection, with a very careful examination of all the political, economic, financial, administrative, juridical and technical aspects of the subject. This preoccupation for this subject is natural since Operation Municipality during the first years has had investments made therein of around 18,000,000,000 Cruceiros which of itself is an essential preliminary step for the definitive emancipation of the Brazilian municipalities in their economic, financial and administrative phases, said municipalities requiring solid investments which will produce riches, that is, the new resources provided for in the General System of the Operation Municipality, and its regional or local projections.

Under the auspices of the Brazilian Municipal Association these congresses are real concentrations of Councilmen or Aldermen, Mayors, (and technicians and persons from all over the country who study these matters, the past congresses having been held successively at Quitandinha (Petropolis) 1950; São Vicente (São Paulo) 1952, and the third at São Lourenço (Minas Gerais) in 1954.

Several organizations that are connected with the Brazilian municipalist movement cooperate in the organization of this Fourth Congress, such as the Brazilian Institute of Municipal Administration (IBAM) and the Society of Friends of the Municipality. Likewise the member associations of the Brazilian Municipal Association in the different States, such as Bahia and São Paulo are very active.

Brazilian Municipal Association. (ABM). Under the title "A campaign for the good of Brazil", Ruz-Cleto Pimentel dos Santos, Chief of the Service of Divulgation of the General Secretariat of the ABM has made a summary of the work done by his department during the period from May 1954 to September 1956, which was presented to its President, Dr. Osmar Cunha, Mayor of Florianopolis.

In this report, which covers one hundred and eleven papers of a technical or political nature and in which the propaganda and organization of the Third National Congress of Municipalities held at São Lourenço are not included, nor the news and information regarding the congresses and meetings of the ABM, nor regarding the books and publications of the General Secretariat which are covered by another general report made by Dr. Araujo Cavalcanti, General Secretary, may be appreciated the great effort made by said Association to maintain the Brazilian municipalities properly informed. On the other hand the report states that the majority of this work has been broadly covered by the principal newspapers of Brazil.

The Brazilian Institute of Administrative Sciences as well as the Administrative Public Service Department assist with office supplies, postal franchise, etc., in the difficult task carried on by the ABM.

Likewise the General Secretary of the ABM, Dr. Araujo Cavalcanti has carried on an active campaign for the use of new techniques and methods of municipal government, the planned development of the cities, administrative decentralization, selection and rationalization of expenditures, the struggle against the lack of responsibility, etc., all in behalf of the ideas and projects covered by Operation Municipality in its regional and local projections. In this connection he has even gone as far as to address the National Congress and the Executive Power of the nation, requesting that they study, discuss and vote on the plan recommended and approved by the Third National Congress of Municipalities at São Lourenço, by mayors, councilmen and technicians who have placed their hopes on the mayors and municipal councils of the nation.

Dr. Araujo Cavalcanti in an article entitled "New routes of administration for

the Brazilian cities" refers to the three initial studies of Operation Municipality carried on by Professors Francelino de Araujo Gomes and Francisco Burkinski and Dr. Luciano Mesquita, as well as to those that will folow.

Professor Burkinski who presides over the Association of Friends of the Municipality" in his article entitled "How to accelerate the progress of the municipalities" states:

"In accord with the delimitation of the tax jurisdiction conferred on the Union, the States and the Municipalities by the Federal Constitution of 1946, the latter are entitled to the smallest portion of the total national public revenue. As a recognition of the process of despoliation which they were being subjected to, the Union, in fulfilment of the constitutional provision returns to the cities 10% of the income tax, excluding the capital cities and what the States annually pay thereto when the State collection of taxes, without including the export tax, exceeds 30% of the excess collections in cities other than capital cities, of the total revenue under any item. It is true that the Union as well as the federated units do not pay their quotas with the desired punctuality. Besides, with these percentages destined to the municipal treasuries it is not possible for them satisfactorily to carry on works and render the services that are essential to improve the living conditions and raise the cultural level of the people. No matter what the results may be, this is an appreciable conquest."

Mr. Burkinski advises that "the cities should not have the increase of their collective welfare, which is always growing, depend on an announced constitutional reform which tends to increase their source of revenue. The first thing they must do is to promote adequate means to break up the circle in which they exist and increase the local wealth, since the economic and social development of those areas will bring with it an increase in municipal revenue. It is necessary for the mayors and councilmen to become convinced that the economic and financial possibilities of their municipalities have been fully exhausted for some time. Therefore they should demand, specially from the States and municipal entities, that in the regional and national scope, they render the necessary technical assistance or at least provide a minimum orientation."

Likewise Mr. Burkinski is in favor of having the five year plan of economic and social development for each Brazilian municipality sponsored by Dr. Araujo Cavalcanti be lloked into. He collaborated in this plan and suggests the convenience of creating a Planning Commission to carry this forward.

In this struggle for the improvement of the Brazilian municipalities several distinguished personalities connected with the municipalist movement are taking part. The case of Brazil is evident proof of the benefit that the guidance of its desires for collective improvement through a well organized and fully active National Municipal Organization can provide.

Mario Augusto Teixeira de Freitas the great mover and mentor of the municipal movement in Brazil passed away in mid 1956.

At a plenary session of the VI Meeting of the Inter-American Congress of Municipalities held in Panama City from August 17 to 23, 1956, homage was paid to the memory of the illustrious Brazilian together with that of other outstanding figures of American Municipalism. Nevertheless as one more modest homage to his great character, we transcribe herein a few paragraphs from the address delivered by Congressman Mr. Rocha Loures, before the National Security Committee of the Chamber of Deputies on July 31, 1956, in introducing the "Law in behalf of municipalities" on which the

illustrious Brazilian was working at the time of his death:

"Mr. President: The nation has received with deep regret the news of the passing of the eminent Brazilian M.A. Teixeira de Freitas. No Brazilian of culture surely has failed to understand the meaning of that loss.

"While still full of life, when his energies showed themselves to be more useful and necessary as well as the efforts of his extraordinary personality, the outstanding figure of Teixeira de Freitas, the real creator of our geographical statistical and census systems, the inseparable companion of the wise and not less illustrious scientist Professor Carneiro Felipe, of pleasant memory, has disappeared.

"The Public Servant No. 1 of Brazil" was how President Getulio Vargas used to refer to this very interesting and fascinating personality who was Teixeira de Freitas. An indefatigable worker, a man of vast and prodigious culture, M.A. Teixeira de Freitas died the victim of excess work, responsibilities and tasks of all kinds, in the service of Brazil and of its people. He died poor because he never took good care of himself and of his private interests, because all his time and all his thoughts were placed on the problems and fundamental aspirations of his country.

"I do not wish, Mr. President, at this time to go into a study of the life and work of Teixeira de Freitas, that is the task of his biographers and of persons who study Brazilian realities. Therefore I will limit myself to the mention of one of his principal contributions, the well known essay on "The Basic Problems of Brazil" which with admirable precision and clarity summarizes the ideal and unparalleled struggle of a life devoted entirely to the strengthening, expansion and prosperity of our country.

"... the greatest homage that could be tributed to the illustrious creator of the Brazilian Institute of Geography and Statistics and to one who has made so many essential contributions to the development of Brazil, is presented by me in the name of my State and of the new Brazilian generations who see in the Master who has gone, above everything, a model and inimitable example of professional ability and moral integrity. Thus, also in behalf of the Brazilian Municipal Association I have the honor to bring to the attention of the Nation and so that it may be entered in the records of the National Congress, the last contribution of M.A. Teixeira de Freitas to the progress of Brazil and to the wellbeing of its people. In fulfilment of the decision adopted by the Deliberative Council of the Brazilian Municipal Association at its last meeting held in the City Council Chamber of Rio de Janeiro, I submit, with justified emotion and pride, to the examination of the Brazilian parliament, the extraordinary bill of the great patriot, the monumental "Law in behalf of municipalities", in the preparation and improvement of which he devoted the last months of his life. Mr. President, this is a bill which is of outstanding importance on which M.A. Teixeira de Freitas worked with enthusiasm and constant dedication. The great Brazilian who has left us hoped that his will would be introduced in substitution of Operation Municipality, a series of undertakings, works and services destined to provide the definitive emancipation and planned development of the Brazilian municipalities ...

"Thus it is that I have the honor to request, Mr. President, that you be good enough to place before the National Congress for meditation, study and debate, the annexed Bill subsitutive of No. 4,614/54 of the former Deputy Jarbas Maranhao, the publication of which I hope will be made in due course, in which bill are established the bases and directives for the National Plan of Works, Undertakings and Services (Operation Municipality)."

CUBA. Several measures have been adopted to prevent the congestion and accidents of traffic. Nevertheless the accident figures are on the increase to the great preoccupation of public officials as well as of the citizens.

With regard to traffic congestion in September 1956 Regulations were enacted for the operation of the National Organization of Public Parking, created by Law-Decree No. 2068 of January 27, 1955.

The Governing Board of the Organization will have a Technical Director whose duties will be:

1. The study and determination of the areas of the city in which it may be convenient or necessary to establish zones for parking vehicles or to prohibit such parking.
2. The study of the conditions under which said parking shall be established and regulated, having in mind the economic or social importance of the zone in question, fixing the fair time of parking allowed to drivers of vehicles in order that the movement of vehicles be not interrupted, in order to facilitate the use of said zones by the largest possible number of users, preventing the permanent parking at places which would make impossible the access of vehicles which bring persons who must perform duties of natural urgency.
   For the establishment of the parking zones the essential principle involved will be to make them usable by the largest possible number of vehicles, care being taken to see that at the same time that a parking space is provided, the time of the use thereof be limited so that, without being insufficient it will be adequately short for a definite and normal thing that is to be done at the place in question. To this end, the Technical Director shall prepare the projects and necessary statistics which he shall submit to the consideration of the Governing Board, without prejudice to making adequate recommendations for the installation of parking meters or to establish other forms of parking regulation.
3. To study, using such plans and data as may be available, the places and conditions under which parking zones for the use of taxicabs, freight and delivery trucks may be established, as well as the acquisition of the land on which parking lots may be built which will alleviate and prevent to the extent possible the congestion of traffic and make it possible for the public to carry on its activities without the need of losing too much time in parking its vehicles or from being prevented from their use and convenience definitively due to said inconveniences.

Recently several buildings for parking authomobiles have been constructed in Havana and parking meters are beginning to be installed. The installation of the latter has not failed to cause a protest to arise, mainly from persons who have lived at the expense of citizenship condescension.

Technicians and civic institutions through the press and radio have insisted to a great extent that the only solution to this terrible problem is the creation of a "Public Traffic Mind". Cienfuegos, in the Province of Las Villas, is the city that has accomplished most in this country in that direction, this having caused it to be known as the "Jewel of National Traffic". (See Boletin, March-June, 1956).

"El Mundo", a large daily newspaper of Havana and one of the newspapers which has most distinguished itself in the campaign to prevent traffic accidents, has a column written every day to keep citizens informed on the subject. In January of this year, Octavio Jordan, who writes this column, reported on the "Tacograph", a small electromechanical gadget, not larger than a common alarm clock, which can be easily installed on any motor vehicle, which registers by a graph on a disc, exactly all the movements made by a vehicle during a trip. The data picked up by this small apparatus is so

careful that policemen can fine or exonerate chauffeurs with absolute assurance of the facts. On the other hand, by using the "Tacograph" not only are accidents prevented but bad driving habits can be improved, which is the cause of our serious traffic problem: bad driving habits.

This very interesting article closed by asking the Minister of Transportation and the National Traffic Commission to make the use of the "Tacograph" compulsory by public service freight and passenger carriers. "'El Mundo' has always maintained that no effort is too small to put a stop to so much lack of responsibility which is noted in the majority of our drivers, and if this mechanical apparatus shows that irresponsibility can be checked, let it be brought to Cuba, because its efficient and strict fiscalization not subject to bribes, can bring great results to those of us who have seen so many remedies tried without success."

ECUADOR. Under the title of "The Municipality of Quito and its principal works in the year 1956", "El Comercio" of Quito, refers to the work done by the city government of the Capital, in a lengthy and interesting article published on January 1, 1957.

"El Comercio" says: "Vigorous and worthy of applause is the work that has been carried on by the City Council of Quito in the year 1956. Its main purpose was to restore the municipal credit and prestige has been fully accomplished. The municipal task in 1956 has been patiently and vigorously maintained by the Mayor who has worked jointly with all the political tendencies that have been represented on the Quito City Council, inspired in the desire to serve the city and move her on toward progress."

From this article it may be understood that the municipal authorities under the leadership of the Mayor, Dr. Carlos Andrade Marin, as well as the city officials, worked in close collaboration to improve the financial situation of the city which had been endangered by past administrations, through a total reorganization of the Department of Finances. As a result of said reorganization and due to the austerity with which the public funds were hadled, for the first time in many years the accounting was brought up to date and the 1957 budget was prepared in January.

With regard to municipal services we find that in Public Works many streets and sidewalks were repaired, enlarged and constructed; the Chimbacalle Stadium was finished; the national football fields were constructed and much activity was displayed in the Concrete Pipe Factory, and the city carpenter and machine shops.

The Master Plan which in past administrations came under the Department of Public Works was made independent and placed in a special department with its own organization allowing it better to prepare for the constantly growing city. It should be stated that the year 1956 showed the largest number of constructions in the capital city. Among the activities in which this Department has engaged the drawing up of the Topographical Map of the city and the enacment of a new Construction Regulations are outstanding. Likewise several projects have been made and the city government has cooperated with the Housing Institute.

With regard to the Water Department, great interest has been placed in the termination of the new plant which will begin to operate in January of 1957. The total construction of the waterworks is estimated to cost 172,667,993.43 Sucres of which $7.650,000 were loaned to the city by the Export-Import Bank and the balance was contributed by the city out of its own funds. Water service in the rural zones was also

looked after and improved.

As to the electric service, the City Council is the principal stockholder of the Quito Electric Company for which it obtained a $5,000,000 loan from the World Bank of Reconstruction and Development, on the basis of setting up the corporation and changing the tariffs. Quito at the present time has available nearly 13,000 kilowatts, this will be increased to 18,000 in 1957 and to 40,000 in 1959. Electric service for the rural zones has also been looked after and improved.

The Department of Hygiene and Municipal Police has carried on an intensive campaign to create a sanitary mind among the people. The Division of Municipal Hygiene took special care to provide the cities and towns with hygienic services, laundires and medical services, while in the cities circular public toilets were provided in all the boroughs of the city. According to a general census recently taken by the Health Service, the following results are shown in Quito: 126 schools; 140 popular dining rooms; 2,200 establishments for the sale of foodstuffs in general; 370 butcher and milk shops; 895 liquor stores and liquor dispensing places; 146 factories, 43 hotels and boarding houses and 90 restaurants.

One of the important activities carried on by the Department of Hygiene and Municipal Police was the training of the personnel. During the year a four months course was given to Health Inspectors who must be high school graduates or normal school graduates. There were also two other shorter courses: one for rural nurses on preventive medicine and another on vital statistics. A measure that has been adopted that always shows satisfactory results are the weekly meetings held at the Municipal Department of Hygiene for the purpose of carrying on an interchange of ideas among the Division Chiefs on some problems that have arisen and the advisable measures to solve them. Likewise weekly lectures are given on Health subjects and the Hygiene Week was organized from December 3rd to 8th, this consisting of a series of competitions on borough cleanliness, markets, schools and private homes; competitions in School Compositions and the boradcasting of lectures on subjects of hygiene.

In the Department of Popular Education and Culture the activities carried on by it have gone beyond the purposes for which it was created by the Municipal Ordinance of April 13, 1956. In the work carried on by this department, schools, colleges, cultural and educational institutions, finance companies, social and aporting associations, etc., enthusiastically cooperated, as well as the people in general, and the activities also included the rural areas.

As may be gathered from the brief report we have given on the work done by different departments of the municipal administration, it should be the subject of congratulation that the services carried on by them during 1956 not only were for the benefit of the city but also of the rural areas.

For the future the Municipal Council of San Francisco de Quito has many projects under consideration which it expects to put into effect gradually in the measure that it may have funds therefor. There is great enthusiasm for having the city be in magnificent condition to receive the delegates to the coming XI Pan American Conference which is expected to be held there in 1959. For this purpose the City Council has drafted and approved Regulations for the expenditure of the funds destined thereto, the same to be deposited in a special bank account and to be used through two signatures, that of the Mayor and of the Treasurer.

The enthusiasm with which all classes are collaborating in the plans had by the authorities of San Francisco de Quito is to be admired and we hope that they will achieve their goal of making Quito in 1959 a worthy seat of the XI Inter-American Conference.

GUATEMALA. The Municipality of Guatemala, capital of the Republic, is adjusting its urban development to the Planning Regulations promulgated in October 1953 which was enacted with the idea of regulating zoning and preparing a Master Plan therefor.

Said Regulations contains Six Titles divided into the following chapters:

Tit. I: Chap. I, Lands and areas; Chap. II, Classification of subdivisions; Chap. III, Traffic routes; Chap. IV, Right of way; Chap. V, Division of Urbanism, officials and persons; Chap. VI, The qualifications of officials; Chap. VII, Persons and officials.

Tit.II: Chap. I, The processing and issuance of subdivision licenses; Chap. II, Prior requisites; Chap. III, Presentation of documents; Chap. IV, Formation of the record and issuance of the license; Chap. V, The execution and supervision of the works.

Tit.III: Chap. I, Rules, minimum requisites and maximum tolerances; Chap. II, general rules; Chap. III, Rules for surveying, staking and marking; Chap. IV, Maximum tolerances in surveying; Chapter V, Rules for the project and the work; Chap. VI, Rules of coordination; Chap. VII, Streets; Chap. VIII, Special rules; Chap. IX; Drainage; Chap. X, The installation of drinking water pipes; Chap.XI, Pavements.

Tit.IV: A sole chapter on guarantees.
Tit. V: Chap. I, The handling of the funds; Chap. II, Regulations for handling funds.
Tit.VI: A single chapter covering penalties.

MEXICO. According to official data from the General Division of Tourism, 52,822 more tourists visited Mexico in 1956 than in 1955 reaching a total of 188,584.
Mexico considers tourism as one of its most important industries and it is right since the money spent by those visitors reached the important sum of $450,000,000 which is an increase of $80,000,000 over and above the 1955 figure.

These dollars changed in to Mexican Pesos represent around $6,000,000,000 and these figures surely show the economic benefits brought by tourism to Mexico.

The sources of information of our publications can be consulted in the specialized library of the CPCI where it is sent by several organizations and private individuals.